(d) There is no intention of the Government to approach the IMF assistance for India's poverty alleviation programmes.

Recruitment drive by Public Sector Banks

1530. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) need to hire 5,00,000 people over the next five years to maintain their current growth rates and for this, the recruitment has to go up three to four times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private banks have grown at 35 per cent per annum and added net additional staff at 43 per cent per annum while PSBs have grown at 17 per cent but reduced their staff strength by 1 per cent per year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring about changes in Human Resources policies and recruitment system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recruit their staff in line with the manpower and business requirements. It is an ongoing continuous process depending upon their growth in business. It is difficult to assess the quantum of recruitment over the next five years, as it depends upon many factors such as growth of business, branch expansion, attrition, outsourcing of jobs, etc.

(b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that it is a matter of fact that private sector banks, particularly, the new generation private sector banks, have grown at a faster pace and in the process these banks have recruited more number of personnel. In public Sector Banks, there has been marginal reduction in staff strength over the period of four years from 2004—2007 largely owing to automatic, attrition, etc.

(c) In terms of the managerial autonomy granted to the public sector banks by the Government, they enjoy full operational managerial autonomy which includes framing of their own "Human Resources" policies & procedures. The banks with the approval of their respective board can design appropriate policies in the matter, from time to time.

Claims of foodgrains suppliers against the erstwhile Bharat Bank

1531. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were some claims made by foodgrains suppliers who migrated from erstwhile Punjab province of Rajkot in India in 1947 on the demand of then Government;

(b) if so, the number of claims settled and pending;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there some claims made by such suppliers which were deposited in the erstwhile Bharat Bank but were neither paid to the claimants nor returned to Government; and

(d) if so, what actions were taken by Government against the bank and who is responsible for payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) A private firm had claimed that it supplied a total of three wagons of rice from Kamoke (now in Pakistan) to the erstwhile Rajkot State, one wagon each to

Rewari, Ludhiana and Rajkot. Though the firm received payment from the State Government of Punjab in respect of two wagons of rice supplied to Rewari and Ludhiana, it represented that it did not receive payment in respect of the third wagon of rice supplied to Rajkot. As the food grains were reportedly supplied by the claimant to the State Government, Central Government requested the State Government of Punjab to consider settling the said claim.

(c) and (d) State Government of Punjab had indicated that the money belonging to this claim was deposited with Bharat Bank Ltd., which later became Bharat Nidhi Bank Ltd. Enforcement Directorate, which looked into some irregularities in the erstwhile Bharat Nidhi Bank Ltd., confirmed that though food grain deposit pertaining to Rajkot State was laying with Bharat Bank Ltd., there was no specfic mention of account of the said private firm in respect of that amount. The matter pertains to commercial transaction between the supplier and the concerned State Government on one hand, and the concerned bank on the other hand.

Amendment of RDB Act, 1993

1532. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has studied the Supreme Court's order that Co-operative Banks cannot take recourse to debt recovery under the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDB Act), 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government would amend the Act so that these Co-operative Banks shall also be included within the provisions of the Act;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the reasons for Government retreating on promise made on 6th December, 2006 in the house to bring a comprehensive bill to amend banking regulation act to remove dual control in Cooperative Banks; and

(f) by when the bill would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In separate matters coming up before the High Courts of Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh it was held by them that a Tribunal constituted under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 has exclusive jurisdiction, to entertain and decide applications from a Co-operative Bank for recovery of debts due to such a bank. Further, it was also held that courts and authorities under the State Co-operative Societies Act as also The Multi-state Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 would cease to have jurisdiction to entertain the applications submitted by the Cooperative Banks for recovery of their dues. Aggrieved by the above, a bunch of appeals/ Special Leave Petitions were field in the Supreme Court of India where the matter of applicability of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to the Cooperative Banks established under the State Co-operative Societies Act of Maharashtra 2002 was referred by the Chief Justice of India to a three judge bench.

Reversing the judgement of the High Court, the Supreme Court held that the provisions of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 are not applicable to the recovery of dues by the Co-operatives from their members. However, the provisions of the State Co-operative Societies Act and Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would continue to be applicable for recovery of dues by the Cooperative Banks. As these observations of